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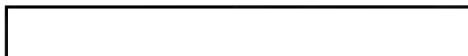
Central Intelligence Bulletin

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State Department review completed

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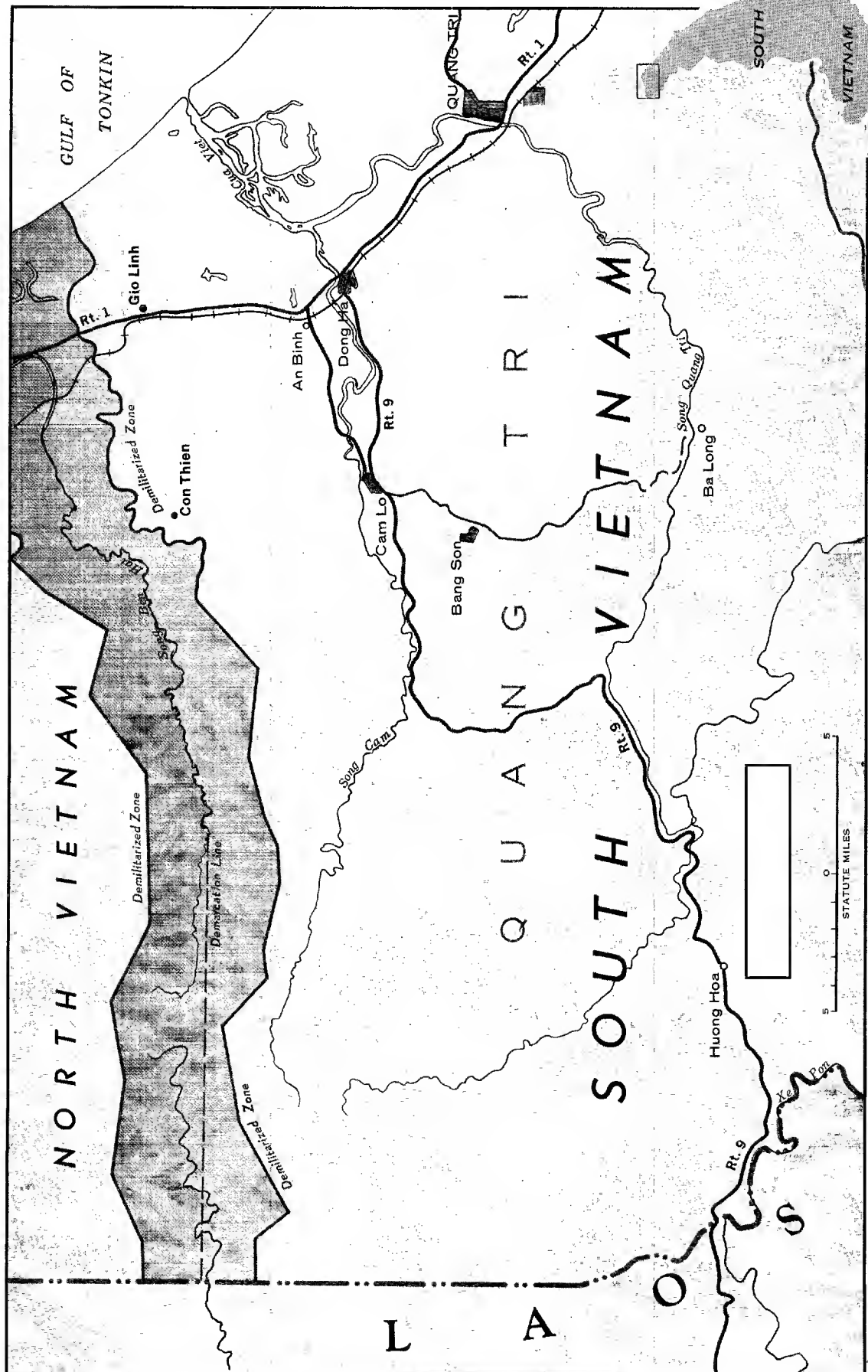
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: US Marines continued to sweep the area around Con Thien just below the DMZ on 30 May, meeting only sporadic resistance. A strategic hill--used by the Communists as a mortar position--was captured, and numerous bunkers and tunnel complexes in the area were destroyed. A few miles east, the US 175-mm. artillery installations at Gio Linh were again harassed with approximately 100 mortar rounds on the 30th. Casualties from the various engagements were light.

No significant fighting has been reported in other areas of South Vietnam.

US casualties for the week ending 27 May reached a new high of 2,929 compared to the previous week's record high of 2,619. The number of killed was down, however, to 313 from the preceding week's 337. (Map)

[Political Developments in South Vietnam: The presidential candidates are moving ahead with plans for the forthcoming elections.]

[Premier Ky met with leaders of several splinter groups on 29 May to draw up an organizational structure to run his campaign. Ky told the working group, which included representatives of Vietnamese Confederation of Labor and the Catholic-led Greater Solidarity Force, that he would give it considerable authority to organize a program designed to attract other political groups.]

[Meanwhile, Chief of State Thieu has also been active in trying to line up political support for his candidacy.] Thieu recently met with a number of uncommitted political figures, including former deputy premier Tran Van Tuyen

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and the leader of a Hoa Hao faction, in order to
sound out their intentions. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Thieu has expressed confidence that he com-
mands widespread support among the military and
intends to concentrate much of his effort on winning
the backing of the leading political groups.] [REDACTED]

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Guatemala: Right-wing vigilante groups organized to combat Communism in Guatemala are becoming increasingly indiscriminate in their selection of targets.

A congressional deputy and member of President Mendez' Revolutionary Party (PR) was murdered--probably by vigilantes--on 30 May. The victim, Marco Soto Beteta, and four other PR deputies received death threats late last month. A PR alternate deputy was killed on 16 May, and other party members have been murdered by vigilantes in rural areas.

Right-wing vigilantism has succeeded in terrorizing Communist elements, disrupting their organization, and driving some into exile. Although innocent persons have been murdered in the process, there has been little evidence of popular reaction against the rightists' tactics.

Soto's murder will undoubtedly cause a furor in the national assembly and among other influential groups. President Mendez, who apparently has tacitly supported the organization of vigilante groups by high-ranking military officers, will now be faced with the task of trying to restrain them. If he is unsuccessful and the murder of non-Communists continues, Guatemala City could be turned into an armed camp.

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NOTES

USSR: Moscow's announcement that ex-KGB chief Vladimir Semichastny has been appointed a first deputy premier in the Ukraine clearly marks his political downgrading, and there now is a press report that other senior KGB officials have also been ousted. It is not clear whether KGB blunders during the past few months are the real reason for the shake-up or only provided an excuse. In any case, Semichastny's demotion removes another of politburo-member Aleksander Shelepin's close associates from a key political position.

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Nigeria: [Close military associates of federal leader Gowon insist that military action will be taken against the secessionist Eastern Region. Most of the small federal navy is at sea reportedly with orders to enforce Gowon's proclaimed blockade of Eastern ports. There are no signs so far of any resistance by Eastern minority tribesmen to Ojukwu's breakaway regime--a development hoped for by Gowon and his associates. *As a precautionary measure, the US Embassy is arranging to evacuate dependents of American citizens from the East.]

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